

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 18, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112 with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Denneen, D. DiCenso, J. Burke, M. Iwanowicz, S. Lawson, D. Bruce, M. Kent, S. Ahmed, C. Lane, and T. Williams. Absent were: J. Lowre, P. Hinton, D. Crowley, J. McDermott. Also present was: Town Administrator M. Boynton, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and Fire Chief T. Bailey

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman L. Pitman.

May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Town Administrator provided an update on the Employee Fringe Benefits Budget. There are some major changes in rates, but he hasn't received the numbers from the actuary. He anticipates it will be a lower number. He doesn't anticipate that there will be any change in liabilities. A plan will be put in place in the next several months to grow the amount from OPEC at a realistic rate. OPEC funds are not included in the budget, as this is a Trust Fund and has to be handled in an article and under the direction of the Finance Director. Currently there is no Federal or State Law to fund the monies. Audit team feels it is a liability not to fund. Failure to fund is a notation on annual audit. It is expected that more and more communities will start to do something. He feels Walpole is doing the right thing in setting up a future plan to get us to an annual funding number. He anticipates receiving monies back from West Suburban Health Insurance. Projected retirement amount for next year for retiree health insurance benefits is \$694,917. He is requesting \$225,000 from Taxation for Article 12, Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Bruce for Favorable Action on Article 12 in the amount of \$225,000 from Taxation, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Finance Director

Town Administrator spoke to the Finance Director M. Good's last day with the Town is March 21, 2013. Until his position is filled, they will operate on a team approach consisting of Town Administrator, Town Accountant and Assistant Collector/Treasurer. They are looking to hire a Finance Director with municipal experience, application deadline is April 12.

Budgets

Conservation - Conservation Agent works 24 hours per week and Wetlands Funds allows for an additional four hours. Conservation Commission is the largest landowner in Town. Town Administrator would like to see some work done on the Conservation lands. The two new hires for the Parks Department funded from the Override are used when they are available. It was suggested that the Town hold a Town wide clean-up. Town Administrator spoke to not in favor of creating a new Tree Department, due to operating licenses that are required to handle the equipment and liability. He would like to have a second chipper for roadside cleanup.

MOTION MADE by M. Kent, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the Conservation Budget in the amount of \$96,451, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Planning Board – is an independent elected board. Department needs to be restructured and would like the Economic Development Director to provide direct oversight of the department and Planning Board to hire a plan review individual to examine the plans and provide technical expertise. Planning Board is thinking of hiring a planner, but he will not support an additional person in this department, at this time. In his proposal, staff would work under the Town Administrator through the Economic Development Officer, but Planning Board would remain an independent elected board.

Committee discussed the option of hiring a consultant for this department or sharing the planner position with another community. Planning Board presently has the ability now to hire a consultant, they have \$15,000 in budget, but have not spent any of it. Town Administrator would prefer to have a staff member rather than an outside consultant. Planning Board is requesting the \$15,000 for a consultant in the FY14 budget. They do need technical expertise.

Chairman will contact the Chairman of the Planning Board E. Forsberg to come and meet with the FinCom to discuss the request for \$15,000 for a consultant. Held

Town Administrator would like the reorganization of this office to come before the Fall Town Meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Requested amount is \$38,050, no change from previous year.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Bruce for Favorable Action on the Zoning Board of Appeals Budget in the amount of \$38,050, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) (Unanimous)

Permanent Building Committee

\$200 being requested for Expenses.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Permanent Building Committee, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Charter Review Committee

No funds being requested at this time, Town Administrator would like to keep the budget open.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for -0- funding for the Charter Review Committee, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Moderator

No funds being requested at this time, Town Administrator would like to keep the budget open.

MOTION MADE by L. Pitman, Seconded by S. Lawson for -0- funding for the Moderator's Budget, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 35 – Zoning Map Changes/Main Street

There is a change in the language in this article. Town Administrator will obtain additional information for the FinCom.

Council on Aging

Town Administrator spoke to a new hire for the position of Council on Aging Director, Courtney Sullivan. She has been employed at Linden Farms in Hingham doing activities, and has a broad knowledge of working with seniors encouraging them to become more active. He would like to see more men to come to the Senior Center. Director will work with the Friends Group and the Council on Aging to bridge any issues. She will start on April 1. Finance Committee previously voted approval of this budget on May 11 but Town Administrator will provide the Committee with updated figures on the salary/budget.

It was suggested to the Town Administrator that any changes in the salaries be allocated to the expense portion. Committee would like the money to be kept in the budget, if there is a new Senior Center built, additional costs will be incurred for electricity, etc.

School Tours

Members of the Committee had toured the Fisher School, very well run but needs money spent on capital. Replacement of windows, boilers and roof would qualify for SBA for reimbursement. Requests have to be done on a school by school basis. There are special needs students there, 12% of the students qualify for free lunch. School Department is working out any issues in the cafeteria change over.

It was suggested that the Committee tour Tri-County to see the school and what it offers.

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk